

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North 1st Avenue, Ste. 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

September 4, 2002

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Chair, Glendale
Councilmember Bob Caccamo, Chandler
*Gila River Indian Community, Unappointed
Councilmember Dave Crozier, Gilbert
Councilmember Ken Porter
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Councilmember Bob Littlefield, Scottsdale
Councilmember Thomas Allen, Surprise
*Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe

Councilmember Dave Lane, Wickenburg
*Supervisor Fulton Brock, Maricopa County
Councilmember Peggy Bilsten, City of Phoenix
Gary Adams, Arizona Department of
Transportation
Richard Dykas, Federal Aviation Administration
Lt. Colonel Khris Greene, Arizona Air National
Guard
Colonel Dennis A. Rea, Luke Air Force Base

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Greg Chenoweth, Chandler
Amy Duffy, Glendale
Mark Ripley, Glendale
William Gillies, Luke AFB
Kelly Orrick, Mesa
Debbie Klein, Phoenix
David Krietor, Phoenix
John Wayne Gonzales, Phoenix
Marcia Wallace, Phoenix
Sue Palmeri, Phoenix

Mario Paniagua, Phoenix
Sharon Wood, Phoenix
Kevin , Scottsdale
Miryam Gutier, Surprise
David Budin, Crown Consulting
Diana Wasiuk, Crown Consulting
Lynn Kusy, Williams Gateway Airport
Pam Keidel, Wilbur Smith
Andrew Herman, Wilbur Smith
Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Acting Chairman Keno Hawker.

2. Review of Minutes of April 1, 2002

It was moved by Gary Adams, seconded by Dave Crozier and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of April 1, 2002.

3. MAG RASP Update Draft Working Paper 3- Demand/Capacity Analysis

Pam Keidel noted that at the April 1, 2002 meeting of the MAG RASP Policy Committee comments were provided on Draft Working Paper 3 - Demand/Capacity Analysis. She explained that the Working Paper was revised based upon the input received and was redistributed to members of the MAG Policy Committee on May 2, 2002 along with a response to a letter from the City of Tempe.

Councilmember Tom Allen said that he had some concerns regarding approval of Working Paper #3. He specifically made reference to: the airspace evaluation of the alternatives, that the capacity at Sky Harbor was being evaluated differently than for the other airports and the evaluation of the capacity of Luke Air Force Base.

Harry Wolfe responded that the airspace evaluation of the alternatives was not an issue associated with Working Paper #3. He indicated that working paper #3 simply was comparing demand and capacity.

Pam Keidel explained that the airport's capacity were being evaluated in terms of Annual Service Volume for long range planning purposes; but that Sky Harbor's capacity was also taking into account hourly capacity as a more precise estimate of capacity. She also noted that MAG was not looking at the capacity of Luke AFB because, unlike for civilian airports, it was not within the study's purview to be recommending facility needs at Luke Air Force Base.

Colonel Dennis Rea asked how the consultant would take into account the impact of proposals on Luke Air Force Base. Pam Keidel responded that the consulting team would undertake a broad assessment of the impacts of projects on Luke and whether such projects might have a negative impact on the mission.

It was moved by Mayor Hawker, seconded by Councilmember Bilsten and recommended by a vote of 11-0 with one abstention to approve the demand/capacity analysis working paper.

4. MAG RASP Working Paper #4, Alternatives

Wilbur Smith Associates staff noted that they prepared an outline of the Working Paper #4, Alternatives which was forwarded to Policy Committee members and technical staff on February 22, 2002 for review. No comments were received on the outline, which was used as the basis for developing Draft Working Paper #4, Alternatives. The draft working paper was distributed to members of the Policy Committee and technical staff on July 9, 2002 and comments were due by August 12, 2002. All comments were forwarded to members of the MAG RASP Policy Committee.

Mayor Keno Hawker said that the alternatives defined seemed to be on the right track. He requested that the maximize airport development alternative also examine a fourth runway at Williams Gateway Airport. He said he wasn't sure how practical it was, but that he wanted to know the pros and cons of pursuing such a project. He also added that the runway might not be parallel; and that the consultant should consider an east-west runway that extended into Pinal County.

Councilmember Bob Littlefield asked why Pleasant Valley Airport was recommended for development. Gary Adams responded that Pleasant Valley airport was on state land and that it was privately owned.

Councilmember Ken Porter said he believed that the alternatives were taking the right direction.

Mayor Keno Hawker asked why the MAG RASP was not considering the potential to convert Luke AFB to a civilian airport if it were to close. Pam Keidel responded that one of the basic assumptions in the MAG RASP Update is that Luke would remain open.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs added that she didn't see Luke's mission going away and studying the conversion of Luke to a civilian airport sends a signal to those who are looking at base closures that we might consider such an option. She also noted that there is no other base in the United States that could accept the mission of Luke; and that legislation passed in Arizona on protecting military bases has become a model for other states.

Councilmember Bob Littlefield said that it was a chicken and egg argument; and that if you plan for closing the base it might actually happen.

Gary Adams asked for clarification on the projects to be included in the maximum airport development option. He asked about potential new runways at Scottsdale and Glendale. Pam Keidel responded that the MAG RASP would not be looking at a parallel runway at Scottsdale and Glendale because the policy of the sponsor did not support it. She also mentioned that a third parallel runway at Mesa would not be considered for the same reason.

Councilmember Tom Allen asked if there would be another chance to change the alternatives after action on Working Paper #4. Pam Keidel responded that once working paper #4 were approved with any revisions requested, that is what we would be evaluating.

It was moved by Mayor Keno Hawker, seconded by Councilmember Peggy Bilsten and recommended by a vote of 8-0 with three abstentions to approve Working Paper #4, Alternatives with the addition of a fourth runway at Williams Gateway Airport included in the maximized airport development alternative.

5. The Evaluation of MAG RASP Alternatives

Pam Keidel discussed issues that had arisen in the evaluation of the MAG RASP Update alternatives. She noted that in order to run the MAG Air Quality Model we would need to collect data from member agencies. She asked for input from the MAG RASP Policy Committee.

Colonel Dennis Rea recommended that a specific evaluation criteria be added that took into account the impact of an alternative and projects within the alternative on the mission of Luke Air Force Base. He also asked that the impact of free flight on the mission of Luke be considered in place of the old TACAN system.

Colonel Rea urged that in the evaluation of the alternatives, if a project were to negatively impact Luke Air Force Base, it should be noted.

Mayor Keno Hawker said that it was a worthwhile consideration to assume that nothing should negatively impact the airspace requirements of Luke Air Force Base and Phoenix Sky Harbor.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs asked that the noise contours for Luke Air Force Base reflect the contours that were required to be used by State legislation. Harry Wolfe indicated that he would ensure that the MAG consultants received the noise contours from the MAG Westside Joint Land Use Study which are the basis for conducting land use planning.

Harry Wolfe indicated that he would be holding a brainstorming session with members of the Phoenix Airspace Users Working Group to identify potential criteria for evaluating the airspace impacts of MAG RASP alternatives. He emphasized that Luke had been invited to participate in the session. He said that the meeting was open to all members of the Policy Committee and technical staff.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs pointed out that the evaluation of the alternatives is not open-ended and that there are airspace constraints to carrying out various projects. Pam Keidel responded that Luke and Sky Harbor have significant airspace requirements and that those requirements would be assumed to remain. She said that the consultant would examine whether a project would pose a conflict to Luke's existing airspace.

Mayor Scruggs commented that it is important to acknowledge that Luke and Sky Harbor's airspace requirements would be assumed to be a part of the base case.

Councilmember Littlefield said that sounded like a reasonable assumption. He asked whether it was reasonable to assume that the Luke mission would remain static. Colonel Dennis Rea said that that was a reasonable assumption.

Harry Wolfe indicated that he wanted to make sure that the Policy Committee had adequate time to consider the evaluation criteria before proceeding with the evaluation. He said that after the airspace brainstorming session and a meeting with the aviation technical staff on the evaluation criteria, he would try to reconvene a meeting of the Policy Committee to endorse the approach for evaluating the alternatives.

6. Economic Impact of Military in Arizona

Harry Wolfe reported that on May 2, 2002 a report was released which indicated that military bases in Arizona contributed \$5.6 billion dollars to the economy. He asked for Mayor Elaine Scruggs to comment on the report.

Mayor Scruggs noted that page eight of the report pointed out that the military employs more than 83,000 people in Arizona; and that the loss of the military bases employment would be equivalent to the loss of several of the top employers in the State of Arizona. She also noted that the mission of the bases could not be replicated elsewhere.

Harry Wolfe indicated that he would distribute copies of the report to members of the MAG Policy Committee. He also noted that the economic impact of the bases would be taken into account as a part of the evaluation criteria.

7. Public Meeting on the MAG RASP Update

Harry Wolfe stated that a public meeting was held on April 3, 2002 to obtain input on the MAG RASP Update and that a summary of the comments received were enclosed. He noted that the public expressed concern about Sky Harbor airport at the meeting and that MAG would be looking at the expansion of Sky Harbor airport as well as other alternatives in the MAG RASP Update.

8. Governor's Council on Aviation

Garry Adams reported that the Governor's Advisory Council has formed a subcommittee to provide technical input on the content of a Request for Proposals with a focus on airspace state-wide. He said that the study was likely to cost \$1 million to \$2 million, and that the State would be applying to the FAA for the funds. He said that no money had been received to date.

Gary Adams thanked Harry Wolfe for briefing the Governor's Council on Aviation on the MAG RASP Update and said that the State did not intend to duplicate or interfere with the work being performed in the MAG RASP Update.

Councilmember Bob Littlefield asked whether the committee would continue after the current Governor leaves office. Gary Adams responded that the Council would continue.

Gary Adams also pointed out that the next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aviation would begin at 2:00 p.m. on September 27, 2002. He said at the meeting there would be an extensive discussion of airspace analysis and that the meeting was likely to take an extensive amount of time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.